

Appl. No. 09/863,076
Amdt. dated October 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 10, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed May 21, 2001.

Claims 11-22 were presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed May 21, 2001.

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and amend claims 11, 14, 15, 17, and 19-21 as set forth in the following listing of claims.

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11.. (currently amended) Combination
instrument for a motor vehicle having an LC display (1), wherein
a light-guiding plate (4) is provided, into said light-guiding
plate (4) ambient light is injected from inside or from outside

the motor vehicle, in said light-guiding plate (4) the injected ambient light is guided by total reflection at a side of the LC display (1) facing away from a viewer, and said light-guiding plate (4) at the side of the LC display (1) facing away from the viewer has a coating (11) or a structure (13) for extracting the ambient light out of the light-guiding plate (4) and for injecting the ambient light into the LC display (1); and wherein the light-guiding plate (4) extends out of a housing (23) of the combination instrument to a windshield (24) of the motor vehicle in order to inject into the light-guiding plate (4) the light which is incident into the motor vehicle through the windshield (24).

12. (previously presented) The combination instrument according to claim 11, wherein the LC display (1) is transmissive.

13. (previously presented) The combination instrument according to claim 11, wherein the light-guiding plate (4) is composed of plastic.

14. (currently amended) ~~The combination instrument according to claim 11,~~ Combination instrument for a motor vehicle having an LC display (1), wherein a light-guiding plate (4) is provided, into said light-guiding plate (4) ambient light is injected from inside or from outside the motor vehicle.

in said light-guiding plate (4) the injected ambient light is guided by total reflection at a side of the LC display (1) facing away from a viewer, and said light-guiding plate (4) at the side of the LC display (1) facing away from the viewer has a coating (11) or a structure (13) for extracting the ambient light out of the light-guiding plate (4) and for injecting the ambient light into the LC display (1); and wherein the coating (11) of the light-guiding plate (4) is white and highly reflective.

15. (currently amended) ~~The combination~~
instrument according to claim 11, Combination instrument for a motor vehicle having an LC display (1), wherein a light-guiding plate (4) is provided, into said light-guiding plate (4) ambient light is injected from inside or from outside the motor vehicle, in said light-guiding plate (4) the injected ambient light is guided by total reflection at a side of the LC display (1) facing away from a viewer, and said light-guiding plate (4) at the side of the LC display (1) facing away from the viewer has a coating (11) or a structure (13) for extracting the ambient light out of the light-guiding plate (4) and for injecting the ambient light into the LC display (1); and wherein analog display devices with scales (21, 22) are provided, and the light-guiding plate (4) has the structure (13) or the coating (11) which is suitable for selective extraction of light both in a region of the scales (21, 22) for divisions or division indications of the scales, and in a region of a display face of the LC display (1).

16. (previously presented) The combination instrument according to claim 11, wherein a photosensor (12) is provided to sense intensity of the light present in the light-guiding plate (4) without being directly influenced by the ambient light, LEDs (4, 15) are provided to inject light into the light-guiding plate (4), and the intensity of the light emitted by the LEDs (4, 15) is controlled as a function of the light sensed by the photosensor (12).

17. (currently amended) ~~The combination instrument according to claim 16,~~ Combination instrument for a motor vehicle having an LC display (1), wherein a light-guiding plate (4) is provided, into said light-guiding plate (4) ambient light is injected from inside or from outside the motor vehicle, in said light-guiding plate (4) the injected ambient light is guided by total reflection at a side of the LC display (1) facing away from a viewer, and said light-guiding plate (4) at the side of the LC display (1) facing away from the viewer has a coating (11) or a structure (13) for extracting the ambient light out of the light-guiding plate (4) and for injecting the ambient light into the LC display (1); wherein a photosensor (12) is provided to sense intensity of the light present in the light-guiding plate (4) without being directly influenced by the ambient light, LEDs (4, 15) are provided to inject light into the light-guiding plate (4), and the intensity of the light emitted by the LEDs (4, 15) is controlled as a function of the light sensed by the photosensor (12); and wherein the LEDs (4, 15) emit white light

for a neutrally colored transition from daylight operation to night-time operation.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The combination instrument according to claim ~~18~~ 11, wherein the light-guiding plate (4) extending out of the housing (23) of the combination instrument is embedded in a dashboard of the motor vehicle, and the dashboard in a region in front of the windshield (24) has an opening for the injection of the ambient light into the light-guiding plate (4).

20. (currently amended) ~~The combination instrument according to claim 17,~~ Combination instrument for a motor vehicle having an LC display (1), wherein a light-guiding plate (4) is provided, into said light-guiding plate (4) ambient light is injected from inside or from outside the motor vehicle, in said light-guiding plate (4) the injected ambient light is guided by total reflection at a side of the LC display (1) facing away from a viewer, and said light-guiding plate (4) at the side of the LC display (1) facing away from the viewer has a coating (11) or a structure (13) for extracting the ambient light out of the light-guiding plate (4) and for injecting the ambient light into the LC display (1); wherein a photosensor (12) is provided to sense intensity of the light present in the light-guiding

plate (4) without being directly influenced by the ambient light,
LEDs (4, 15) are provided to inject light into the light-guiding
plate (4), and the intensity of the light emitted by the LEDs (4,
15) is controlled as a function of the light sensed by the
photosensor (12); wherein the LEDs (4, 15) emit white light for a
neutrally colored transition from daylight operation to night-
time operation; and wherein the light-guiding plate (4) is
provided in the region in front of a windshield (24) of the
vehicle with structures (29) or a coating (30) which reduces a
refractive index, said structures (29) or said coating (30)
promoting the injection of the ambient light into the light-
guiding plate (4).

21. (currently amended) The combination
instrument according to claim ~~18~~ 11, wherein the light-guiding
plate (4) is provided in the region in front of the windshield
(24) with structures (29) or a coating (30) which reduces a
refractive index, said structures (29) or said coating (30)
promoting the injection of the ambient light into the light-
guiding plate (4).

22. (previously presented) The
combination instrument according to claim 11, wherein the motor
vehicle is a utility vehicle or a bus.